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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

Hamilton College was privileged to host the Shaker Seminar this past July. It was wonderful to see everyone's enthusiasm for Hamilton's Shaker collection. For me, it was an exciting opportunity to share with the group some of the treasures that we have acquired at Hamilton.

In this issue we feature three names familiar to readers of the *Quarterly*. Christian Goodwillie presents a lively summary of the 2008 Shaker Seminar. His account should tempt those of you who were unable to attend this year to reserve the dates for next year—July 23-26, 2009—at Canterbury and Enfield, New Hampshire.

Two of the papers from the 2008 Seminar are presented here, one by Walter Brumm and the other by Stephen Paterwic, and both having to do with the Shaker community at Sodus Bay, which was one of the main topics of the Seminar. Christian Goodwillie has summed up both of these fine papers in his account of the Seminar, which follows.

I am pleased to alert prospective researchers that the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization (AHI) of Clinton, N.Y., an independent organization founded by three Hamilton College faculty members, has announced the offering of E. M. Bakwin Fellowships for advanced research in Central New York libraries and repositories. These fellowships are for one month of study (in either June or July), carry a stipend of \$1,600, and include free lodging at the headquarters of AHI in the Clinton village center. For those of you working on a research project who would benefit from a month's study at the Hamilton College Library, consider applying for one of these fellowships. The deadline for applications is March 2, 2009. For more information, see AHI's web site at: <http://www.theahi.org/initiatives>.

I also want to call your attention to a new DVD from The Enfield Shaker Singers titled "We Find No Harm in Dancing: Shaker Marches and Dances." Mary Anne Haagen, director of the group, writes: "No one living has had the privilege of seeing Shakers 'go forth in the dance.' This film documents the Enfield Shaker Singers' engagement with the dance patterns, energy and joy described in Shaker manuscripts and eyewitness visitor accounts. We recognize our limited ability to capture the tradition's spiritual underpinnings. We offer our many years' experience of singing and dancing Shaker music with humility, love and respect." For more information, see their web site: www.shakersingers.org.